estimated reserves of oil and oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) are about 1467.57 MMt.

(c) A total of 56.5 Million Tonnes of oil & oil equivalent of gas is expected to be produced during the year 1996-97. Efforts are being made to increase the production levels further. However, production levels are dependent on several factors including exploitable hydrocarbon reserves base, permitted production potential based on reservoir characteristics, exploitation strategy, available infrastructure, depletion stage of the reservoir and other petrophysical considerations which limit the production levels keeping in view the health of reservoir.

(d) The details of the amount spent during the last three years for importing petroleum products are as under:—

	(Rs. crores)
Year	*Amount Spent*
1993-94	7041
1994-95	7522
1995-96	12578

Strike Threat by Off-Shore Divers of ONGC

621. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the off-shore divers working for ONGC have threatened to go on strike;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Bharatiya Gotakhor Sangh, an Association representing divers employed by a contractor engaged by ONGC Ltd., has raised certain issues with the Corporation and has stated that in case proper action was not taken to rectify the same, the Association would be forced to give a call for strike.

(b) (i) Direct employment for divers and technicians; (ii) Deboarding of foreign divers engaged by the contractor from the vessels deployed by the contractor and deportation of such foreign divers from the country; (iii) Strict adoption of international safety norms relating to diving; and (iv) Ensuring payment of unpaid wages of divers by the contractor.

(c) Services of divers through contractor are obtained on contract by ONGC Ltd., strictly based on need. The Corporation ensures that various terms of the contract agreement entered into with the contractor, including strict compliance of international safety norms and payment of wages by the contractor to his employees, are following by the contractor.

पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर राजसहायता

622. **श्री रामजेठमलानी:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पेट्रोलियम और इसके उत्पादों पर राजसहायता प्रदान की जाती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो विभिन्न उत्पादों पर राजसहायता किस दर से प्रदान की जाती है और वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान कुल कितनी राजसहायता दिए जाने का अनुमान है;

(ग) क्या 1990-91 से 1996-97 के दौरान राजसहायता की राशि में पर्याप्त वृद्धि हुई है; यदि हां, तो उसका वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या उक्त अवधि के दौरान पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर राजसहायता में इस वृद्धि के बावजूद उनके मूल्य तेजी से बढ़े हैं; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० आर० बालु): (क) और (ख) पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर 1996-97 के लिए राजसहायता की अनुमानित धनराशि निम्नानुसार है:—

	(करोड़ रुपए)
उत्पाद	**1996-97**
एच० एस० डी०	8340
एस० के० ओ० (घरेलू)	6350
एल० पी० जी० (पैक्ड घरेलू)	19 50

नाफ्था	980
एफ० ओ० (उर्वरक)	390
एल० एस० एच० एस० (उर्वरक)	200
बिटमैन (पैक्ड)	190
मोमे	40
योग	18440

(ङ) 1990-91 से 1996-97 तक पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों पर प्रदान की गई राजसहायता का ब्यौरा निम्नानुसार है:—

(करोड़ रुपए)

वर्ष	धनराशि
1990-91	4160
1991-92	4175
1992-93	5686
1993-94	6596
1994-95	6560
1995-96	9360
1996-97 (अनुमानित)	18440

(घ) और (ङ) पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के मूल्य सरकार द्वारा प्रशासित होते हैं। घरेलू मांग को पूरा करने के लिए बड़ी मात्राओं में आयात किए जाने वाले एच० एस० डी० मिट्टी तेल एल० पी० जी० जैसे पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों और कच्चे तेल के अंतरराष्ट्रीय मूल्यों में हुई वृद्धि तथा रुपए-डालर की विनिमय दर के अंतर को पूरी तरह से बिक्री मूल्य में नहीं डाले जाने के परिणामस्वरूप राजसहायता में अत्यंत वृद्धि हो गई है।

Outbreak of Fire at Jhansi Oil Depot

623. SHRI KIRHSNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of workers were killed due to outbreak of fire in an oil depot of the IOC at Jhansi in November, 1996;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the circumstances leading to the incident; and

(d) what is the extent of relief paid to the families of the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A fire accident took place at Jhansi depot 4 of IOC on 19-11-1996 and 7 persons including one IOC employee died and 8 persons were injured. The injured included two IOC employees. Subsequently, 3 more burn victims including one IOC employee succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment.

(c) The State Government has ordered a magisterial enquiry.

(d) The IOC has paid the following compensation to the families of the fire victims.

(i) Rs. 2,37,900 was paid in the case of one of the deceased IOC employees and Rs. 2,10,180 was paid to the other deceased employee.

(ii) Rs. 50,000 each was paid to the eight deceased persons other than the IOC employees through the District Administration.

(iii) Rs. 10,000 each was paid to two injured persons. IOC also organised the movement of 3 serious burn cases from local hospitals to hospitals in Delhi and paid for the treatment.

Curbing the Consumption of Diesel/Petrol

624. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1475 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 1996 and state:

(a) how the estimates of oil pool accounts deficit are arrived at;

(b) the details of measures Government propose to take or have taken to check the rise;